



March 3, 2022

Raised Bill No. 172

AN ACT CONCERNING CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR ABUSE, ABANDONMENT AND FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION OR ELDERLY PERSON, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES OR CONVESED PERSONS.

I am writing concerning the raised Bill 172, I am a registered nurse and have a private care management nursing practice. In the years I have been helping our seniors navigate a very complex healthcare system I've seen exploitation of our elderly by home care agencies. I've seen home care agencies who have private aides who are actively on probation for larceny. So there is a provision in registering, not licensing with consumer protection to provide background checks. Unfortunately many of the agencies may be performing these background checks but continue to hire them to be with a client in the community.

There have been cases that I've seen someone become a POA for an at risk elderly client and recently saw this same person actually buy a house with the client's money having his name on the mortgage and the loan. Although he seemed to agree he did not realize or recognize the efforts of this person to get herself a home. Along with her brother, boyfriend, an infant and toddler and someone she calls her grandfather and herself to live in this home and bringing this very fragile person into this home to care for herself, and get paid for doing so. He is a diabetic, amputation of one leg, bed bound and dialysis 3 times per week. She carefully kept his attorney out of the closing or information regarding his funds and utilized another attorney to complete the process. Both the attorney and myself have left the case with reporting it to protective services. Protective services declined to investigate as he is of sound mind and agreed to this. WE feel he was taken advantage of.

Raised Bill No. 174 and Raised Bill 5197

I am writing to all regarding both of these bills as I feel they represent one bill and perhaps not two bills. Although there are other studies actively going on I believe having representation of those who are actually working in the field on a daily basis.

I feel there needs to be a complete overhaul of "registering" homecare agencies. Homecare term is utilized in many venues and confusing for the general population.

There are agencies by the hundreds across the state some with little control of what they are providing our most vulnerable population. Some providing healthcare management without having the knowledge to provide those skills. That could be administering medications, performing blood sugars and generally managing what would and should be managed by a licensed clinician.

Many other states have homecare agencies that are actually licensed through the health department. Although I am not a fan of the health department in general and their management of policies and procedures, often over controlling situations that don't need oversight, I truly believe with our aging population, often living well into their 90's there needs to be a great oversight than what presently is provided through consumer protection.

I appreciate the aging commission reviewing some of the needs of our elderly population, there needs to be a great way in supporting our seniors without bleeding them of every dime they have saved and every contribution that they have made to our great state and society in general in order to get the care they deserve.

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